

Quick Notes

Issue No. 1

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IP Inpatient Discharges

ED Emergency Department

AS Ambulatory Surgery

Welcome to **Quick Notes**, a new series of technical bulletins and updates on reporting requirements for patient level data. Follow the star icons for notes on inpatient discharges (**IP**), emergency departments (**ED**), and ambulatory surgery (**AS**). Look for common acronyms, technical terms, helpful Web sites, and reference sources in these bulletins. For your convenience, contact information will always be listed in the top right corner. Patient Discharge Data (PDD) Section staff names are listed in this issue.

THE LAW: Let us introduce you to the state laws that govern these three data programs. The California Health and Safety Code requires health facilities (you) to report healthcare data to the Office of Statewide Health Planning & Development (OSHPD). Several sections of the law specify data elements and patient confidentiality requirements:

- Inpatient hospital discharge abstract data record - Section 128735
- Hospital emergency care data record - Section 128736
- Ambulatory surgery data record (from hospitals and freestanding licensed surgical clinics) - Section 128737

For text of the law, please contact us or visit this Web site: www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html

CONFIDENTIALITY: By law, the patient's rights of confidentiality shall not be violated in any manner and no one reporting data shall be liable for damages in any action based on the use or misuse of these data. Patient confidentiality is so important that patient social security numbers and any other data elements that OSHPD believes could be used to determine the identity of an individual patient are exempt from the disclosure requirements of the California Public Records Act.

IP

MIRCal Regulations: Inpatient discharge data have been collected for over 20 years by the Patient Discharge Data Program. Medical Information Reporting for California (MIRCal) is the relatively new online data collection system. Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations has full definitions, format, specifications, and reporting requirements for this program. There is also detailed information on extensions, approval criteria, and penalties. For actual text of the regulations, please contact OSHPD or consult our Web site.

ED

AS

ED/AS: Collection of emergency department and ambulatory surgery encounters will begin with October-December 2004 data, due to OSHPD early in 2005. You have probably participated in surveys and seminars over the last few years regarding these programs. More information on this expanded phase of MIRCal will be coming your way in *Quick Notes*, e-mails, helpful hints, reminders, new regulations, seminars and other exciting events.

National Standards: OSHPD's patient level reporting requirements will be consistent with national standards, as applicable. We are



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currently drafting regulations to include data definitions and format requirements. A consortium of ED/AS data providers, data users, and other key stakeholders has been very helpful in the early stages of the data definition process.



MIRCal Informational Web site: Sections of the OSHPD Web site are devoted to MIRCal to provide you with the latest news on the MIRCal system, current forms, a comprehensive reporting manual with discussions of reporting requirements, and frequently asked questions. Of special interest are links to the Edit Description Guide, free Computer-Based Training, and the ICD-9-CM Coding Edit Manual.

***Next Issue:
Race and Ethnicity***

OSHPD's VISION: EQUITABLE HEALTHCARE ACCESSIBILITY FOR CALIFORNIA

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***Our staff is ready to assist you in the reporting of
quality data.***

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***MIRCal Project
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